

### **REMARKS**

In response to the Office Action mailed December 4, 2006, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application. By way of this amendment, claims 2-18 and 20-37 have been amended.

#### **Claim Objections**

Claims 2-18 and 20-37 were objected to because they are dependent claims that are indicated with an indefinite article. Applicant has amended claims 2-18 and 20-37 to replace "A method..." with "The method..." as suggested by the Examiner.

#### **Double-Patenting**

Claims 1-37 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over various claims of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,709,456. To expedite the allowance of the pending claims, Applicant submits herewith a Terminal Disclaimer. Applicant notes that U.S. Patent No. 6,709,456 to Langberg et al. is commonly owned with the present application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all obviousness-type double patenting rejections.

#### **Fees Due to File This Amendment**

Prior to the pending Office Action, a fee was paid for the original 37 claims, with 2 of them being independent claims. The claim amendments have not resulted in more than the original number of claims, and **thus no claim fees are believed to be due** to file this amendment.

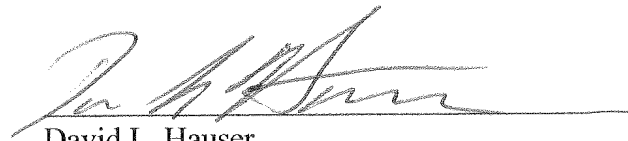
**Conclusion**

In light of the foregoing response and the above remarks, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the attorney of record at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2/9/07



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